variety) for the total of its production and its extensive use as a source for oil, sauce, bean curd, soup, and other forms of food, and for oil cake for fertilizer and for fattening hogs. Root crops, such as peanuts and sweet potatoes, are very common. Sesamum seed is cultivated chiefly for its oil. Rape, which ripens before the planting of rice and cotton, is widely grown, and its seeds supply oil, its new shoots greens, its dried stems fuel, and the refuse cake fertilizer.

Many vegetables are raised. Note should be made of the edible water chestnut and lotus roots which are widely grown. Numerous kinds of fruit, too, are cultivated, although some foreign observers believe that the Chinese could, with benefit, give greater attention to them. The very name of tea is of Chinese origin, and while the export of the leaf has sharply declined of late years, it remains, as it has been for many centuries, a staple crop and the source of the universal Chinese drink. Our first reference to the drinking of tea is from the second half of the third century after Christ. Tea drinking was first confined to the South but under the T'ang it became widespread. By the eighth century even the poor were using tea, and the growth and preparation of the tea leaf had become an important occupation. Melons of various kinds, including especially the watermelon, are characteristic. Pumelos, oranges, bananas, pineapples, papaws, and lichees are raised in the tropical and sub-tropical South, and such fruits and nuts as oranges, pears, cherries, peaches, apricots, walnuts, chestnuts, grapes, plums, and apples in some other parts of the country. The bamboo is grown over much of China, in many varieties, and has almost innumerable uses. Its young shoots

provide food, its foliage clothing, and its stalks material for building and for many kinds of furniture and implements.

The raw materials for clothing are also raised by the farmer. From time immemorial the silkworm and its associated mulberry tree have been a chief care of the Chinese, A wild silk, from larvae fed on oaks, is also produced, especially in Shantung, Hopei, and Manchuria. Cotton is the material of the larger proportion of Chinese clothing and has been and is grown in North, in Central, and in South China. It forms a major crop of the lower part of the Yangtze Valley, and some have predicted that in time this region will become one of the chief sources of the